TO: Principal Smith

FROM: Megan Catchings

RE: Cyberbullying Assembly

As cyberbullying becomes more evident in schools, schools are finding that their current policies and discipline actions do not address this serious issue. The teachers and students do not have enough information cyberbullying and how to avoid the issue. I am proposing a mass informative assembly for all students and teachers on cyberbullying. It will be an assembly during school hours that all students and teachers must attend. I have found several guest speakers who are willing to talk to the students on what actions are categorized as cyberbullying. Also, I would like to invite speakers who have had personal experiences with cyberbullying and its consequences. This provides the students with both the facts and actual consequences of cyberbullying.

Although our school has not had many recent problems with cyberbullying, this assembly is a preventative strategy. Students will become aware of what is defined as cyberbullying and the seriousness of the crime. According to Keith and Martin (2005) “It is estimated that 91% of kids 12 to 15 years old and almost all teens (99%) ages 16 to 18 use the Internet”, which provides students with the opportunity to fall victim to cyberbullying or become a cyber-bully.

As our goal at Georgia High School aims to prepare our students to be well-rounded individuals who will be an asset to society, we must also include preparing our students to be well-rounded, responsible digital citizens. This assembly will continue to prepare our students for life outside of Georgia High. It will also be an opportunity to get the school district and community on board with new policies on cyberbullying. Currently, the school district has strict rules on internet use but those polices do not include cases of cyberbullying. After hearing more about the issue and real life experiences, the school board may be more likely to reconstruct those policies. Internet usage policies could incorporate rules about cyberbullying and how those situations should be handled by the school. Not only will this assembly inform the students, but it will inform the school board.

Because our school is focused highly on academics, the assembly would only be a one class period event for each grade and would occur during the first week of school. In order to prevent any questions arising from the assembly, all school board members and the superintendent would be invited to attend. This would provide the board members with information and would bring light to a growing issue. The total cost of the assembly will be one period of instruction and the cost of lunch provided to the speakers. At your convenience, please contact me so we might discuss my proposed assembly on cyberbullying.